

Good Morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Human Services committee. I am here today to express concerns about **H.B. 5243 An Act Concerning Sober Homes.**

My name is Debbie Van Epp. I have been in sustained recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions since December 16, 2007. Living in a recovery house changed my life. The opportunity to live in a recovery house at one of the most vulnerable times in my life is indescribable - I met people there who had recovery, who had walked in my shoes and were getting their lives back I HAD HOPE, they took me to meetings, helped with food, and supported me early in recovery. This is what it means when we say a therapeutic environment. Peers helping peers. This was my home, it was more than a recovery house

Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS, the Recovery Housing Coalition of CT and the recovery community to accommodate community needs. Thank you.